Prior law provided for a fee on the premium for criminal bail bonds of $200 on every $10,000 of liability underwritten by a commercial surety (2%). New law changes the fee to $2 on each $100 of liability underwritten by a commercial surety (2%) and adds the fee to premium taxes owed.

New law deletes prior law which required the commercial surety underwriters to submit a quarterly report to the commissioner of insurance showing the calculations for the fees for each parish.

New law provides that the fees are collected by the sheriff of the parish.

New law provides that failure to pay the fee prevents the sheriff from accepting the appearance bond and power of attorney.

New law provides that if the fee is paid with an "insufficient funds" check the agent is prevented from presenting appearance bonds with their power of attorney until the outstanding fees are paid.

New law deletes prior law that provided that the premium fees collected were deposited in a special account established by the commissioner of insurance and the commissioner distributed the funds within 30 days to the district attorney in each parish, except Orleans.

Prior law provided that the district attorney distributed the fees as follows:

(1)   25% to the judicial court fund.
(2)   25% to the sheriff's operating fund.
(3)   25% to the district attorney's operating fund.
(4)   25% to the indigent defender's program.

New law provides that the sheriff distributes the funds in the same portions as prior law, except the funds for the sheriff go to their general fund instead of their operating fund and that for Orleans, to the judicial administrator for the criminal district court.

New law deletes prior law provisions that the funds for Orleans go to the judicial administrator for the criminal district court and into a special account for the administration of criminal justice.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 9, 1999).

(Amends R.S. 22:1065.1)